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Letter dated 15 March 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Russian-Afghan Statement of 12 March 2002 issued on the results of the visit of the Head of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan Mr. Hamid Karzai to Moscow and his meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 March 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Russian-Afghan statement of 12 March 2002, Moscow

The Russian Federation and Afghanistan, on the basis of the interests of the two States and peoples, reaffirm their determination and mutual desire to strengthen good relations and many-sided cooperation on a broad and long-term basis in the political, trade and economic, scientific-technical, cultural and other fields.

As friendly States, the Russian Federation and Afghanistan are building their relations on the basis of mutual trust and respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. They will closely cooperate in the interest of re-establishing a peaceful, united, neutral and prosperous Afghan State, living in harmony with its neighbours and the international community as a whole.

In order to ensure regional security and global stability, the Russian Federation and Afghanistan will continue bilateral and multilateral cooperation in eradicating international terrorism, extremism and illicit drug-trafficking in accordance with the norms of international law, above all, the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Both sides emphasize the importance of consistently implementing the provisions of the inter-Afghan Agreement, concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, in Bonn on 5 December 2001, which laid the basis for achieving a lasting political settlement in Afghanistan through national reconciliation and the formation in the country of a representative multi-ethnic Government and a stable civil society.

The Russian Federation and Afghanistan welcome the determination of the world community to help the Afghan people in restoring the economic infrastructure and the social sphere, as declared at the Tokyo International Conference on 21 and 22 January 2002.

The Russian Federation reaffirms its readiness to assist in every way the processes of state-building and the economic and social recovery of Afghanistan with the central coordinating role of the United Nations. The sides will promote the development of long-term and mutually beneficial ties for the implementation of priority projects in various fields on a bilateral and multilateral basis, especially in the regional context.